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~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Thailand

SUBJECT Opposition to Budget Bills in Thai Cabinet and Parliament

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. On 16 November 1949, the Democrat Party held a meeting and decided not to accept the two budget bills.\* On the same day, the United Party held a meeting and also decided not to accept the Supplementary Budget Bill.
2. Phibul personally instructed Liang Chayakan, Deputy Minister of Interior, to institute a maneuver in Parliament which would insure acceptance of the two budget bills. On 17 November 1949, Liang conferred privately with House Speaker, Phra Rajtharm, and pointed out the dangerous possibility of the Government being defeated on the Supplementary Budget Bill. As a result of the advice given him by Liang, Rajtharm suppressed the Opposition throughout the debate on the budget bills. Also on 17 November 1949, Tiang Sirikhan, leader of the minority opposition, the Saha Thai Party, was informed by Police Maj. Gen. Phao Sriyanon that non-acceptance of the two budget bills would lead to a "serious situation". As a result, Tiang and his followers did not participate in the debate on the budget bills, did not vote, and withdrew their names when nominated for the Budget Committee.
3. On 18 November 1949, Government supporters of the two budget bills pre-arranged the exclusion of Opposition members from the Budget Committee, and the groundwork was laid for early voting on the bills.
4. Kemchat Bunyaratphan, Deputy Minister of Justice, and Worakarn Banacha, Deputy Minister of Finance, civilian members of the 1947 Coup Party, privately warned Phibul that it was such activities as those that had caused Phibul to acquire the reputation of a dictator during the war.
5. Liang Chayakan is expected to be "kicked upstairs" in the Cabinet shake-up which is expected in February 1950.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] The two budget bills referred to are probably the 1950 Budget Bill and the 1949 Supplementary Budget Bill.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] According to the Bangkok Post, the Supplementary Budget Bill totals 188,400,000 baht. Of this amount, 62,465,000 baht is slated to pay costs in connection with the October 1948 and February 1949 coup attempts. This latter amount was included in the Supplementary Budget

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Bill under the heading "Peace Maintenance Works". It was broken down as follows: Army, 37,737,000 baht; Navy 9,155,000 baht; Air Force, 8,750,000 baht, and Police 6,823,000 baht. Also included in the Supplementary Budget Bill was 99,000,000 baht for basic allowance increases for Government employees. This latter amount has come under debate because, if passed, it would automatically become retroactive to July 1949 without further Parliamentary action. The Supplementary Budget Bill was passed on 21 November 1949 without any alterations by the Budget Committee. It was scheduled to come up for House action on 24 November 1949.

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\_\_\_\_\_ the Lower House of Parliament overrode Senate opposition and passed the Thai Government's 1949 Supplementary Budget.

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